

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 – 18, and 20 – 23 are in the application, with claims 1, 17, 22, and 23 having been amended. Claims 1, 17, 22, and 23 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4 – 18, and 20 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0158900 (“Santos”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 17, 22, and 23

Amended independent claim 1 relates to a method for indicating a speaker during a conference. The method comprises determining a list of participants in a conference, determining a sample from the conference, determining a first participant from the list that is speaking during the sample, determining a second participant from the list that is speaking during the sample, providing data indicative of the sample, providing data indicative of the first participant and the second participant, displaying a first graphic indication that the first participant is speaking, and displaying a second graphic indication that the second participant is speaking. The first graphic indication further indicates a first level of activity. The second graphic indication further indicates a second level of activity. The first level of activity is different than the second level of activity, and the second graphic indication is displayed at a same time as the first graphic indication. Moreover, the first graphic indication comprises an icon having a first size based on the first level of activity, and the second graphic indication comprises an icon having a second size based on the second level of activity.

The art of record cannot be seen to disclose or to suggest the above-mentioned features of amended independent claim 1. In particular, the art of record cannot be seen to disclose or to suggest displaying a first graphic indication that a first participant is speaking, and displaying a second graphic indication that a second

participant is speaking, where the first graphic indication further indicates a first level of activity, where the second graphic indication further indicates a second level of activity, where the first level of activity is different than the second level of activity, where the second graphic indication is displayed at a same time as the first graphic indication, where the first graphic indication comprises an icon having a first size based on the first level of activity, and where the second graphic indication comprises an icon having a second size based on the second level of activity.

Santos describes a conference call system. At FIG. 3 of Santos, a display screen is illustrated. The display screen comprises a status column that indicates a status of each participant during a conference call. As illustrated, a participant's status may include either Active, Listen Only, Host, Speaking, Hold, Dialing, or Absent. However, nowhere does FIG. 3 disclose that two participants are speaking at a same time. Therefore, since Santos fails to disclose every element of amended independent claim 1, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is improper for at least this reason.

Furthermore, the status column only displays text based status indicators. Nowhere does Santos disclose or suggest graphical indicators. Moreover, nowhere does Santos disclose or suggest graphical indicators that are icons where a size of an icon is based on a level of activity.

Therefore, nowhere can Santos be seen to disclose or suggest displaying a first graphic indication that a first participant is speaking, and displaying a second graphic indication that a second participant is speaking, where the first graphic indication further indicates a first level of activity, where the second graphic indication further indicates a second level of activity, where the first level of activity is different than the second level of activity, where the second graphic indication is displayed at a same time as the first graphic indication, where the first graphic indication comprises an icon having a first size based on the first level of activity, and where the second graphic indication comprises an icon having a second size based on the second level of activity.

Amended independent claims 17, 22, and 23 relate to a system, a system, and an article of manufacture, respectively, in which a first graphic indication that a

first participant is speaking is displayed, and a second graphic indication that a second participant is speaking is displayed where the first graphic indication further indicates a first level of activity, where the second graphic indication further indicates a second level of activity, where the first level of activity is different than the second level of activity, where the second graphic indication is displayed at a same time as the first graphic indication, where the first graphic indication comprises an icon having a first size based on the first level of activity, and where the second graphic indication comprises an icon having a second size based on the second level of activity.

In view of the aforementioned deficiencies in Santos, amended independent claims 17, 22, and 23 and their related dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The outstanding Office Action presents a number of characterizations regarding each of the applied references, some of which are not directly addressed herein because they are not related to the rejections of the independent claims. Applicant does not necessarily agree with the characterizations and reserve the right to further discuss those characterizations.

For at least the reasons given above, it is submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Alternatively, if there remains any question regarding the present application or any of the cited references, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-4982.

Respectfully submitted,

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